



A caribou eludes the attention of two cyclists just beyond Primrose Ridge on the Denali Park Road.

NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

A Special Time and Place to Celebrate Wilderness

HAVE YOU EVER ALLOWED YOURSELF TO WONDER in the outdoors whether you’re the first person to set foot in a particular space? Have you ever then hoped that you could protect that same feeling for others who may follow you here in a year, or 13,000 years from now? That might begin to explain what it feels like to experience wilderness.

On September 3, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act, which defines wilderness as areas where the earth and its communities of life are left unchanged by people, where the primary forces of



Mount McKinley

NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

nature are in control, and where people are visitors who do not remain.

While 9.1 million acres of wildlands across the country were designated initially, Congress added more than 100 million acres over the past 50 years.

There are now 758 wilderness areas managed by four federal land agencies, the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and National Park Service.

More than 80 percent of all National Park Service lands across the country are managed as wilderness, whether or not they are formally designated as such. Many of these diverse spaces also reflect thousands of years of human residence. Researchers in Denali have discovered some of the earliest human use on the continent with evidence that dates back as far as 13,000 years.

About a third of Denali, 2,125,679 acres, or 3,321 square miles, has received full federal wilderness designation. Within it, there are only 17 miles of constructed trails, and a previously-existing 92-mile road along which the wilderness boundary begins 150 feet from the centerline. No other park in Alaska has the same combination of designated wilderness and road access. Learn more at www.wilderness50th.org.

A number of evening speakers will talk about wilderness at events scheduled throughout the summer. Check listings on page 13, or online at <http://go.usa.gov/KJlAQ>



Sandhill cranes

NPS PHOTO / TIM RAINS



Denali Backcountry Adventures campers rally a group cheer.

NPS PHOTO



Dall sheep

NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER



This is a natural landscape with 13,000 years of human use.

NPS PHOTO / CHARLOTTE BODAK

Welcome to Denali

We are glad you are here to help us celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964. It is an important part of the reason this great park looks and runs the way it does today.

During your visit, I want to challenge and encourage each of you to find and spend at least five minutes in wilderness. Try to define for yourself what it means, and what the experience feels like for you. It is my hope that you will decide that five minutes is not nearly enough.

As homework goes, this should not be especially hard to accomplish in Denali. More than 95 percent of all the park and preserve areas are managed either as designated or eligible wilderness lands. That is just about everything we have except for the entrance area and a skinny ribbon running the length of the Park Road corridor. Step off a shuttle bus, walk about 15 or 20 paces in any direction, and you will probably be standing in the thick of it. If you are not sure, ask your bus driver, or a park ranger on my staff. Wilderness is usually a big part of why they choose to live and work here.

Managing public lands to conserve wilderness character asks more of us as stewards, and visitors. The most persuasive argument I know for whether it is worth it is to get people into a space where wilderness can speak for itself.



Enjoy your visit.

Don Striker
Superintendent

4 Critical Issues

Read about complex stewardship issues that park managers face today.

- Researchers cite evidence that Denali is getting drier, woodier, and more densely vegetated as a consequence of climate change.
- A three-year study finds that fewer visitors, 4 percent, see wolves along the Park Road.

11 Dinosaur Mural

A new 50-square-foot mural commissioned from paleontological artist Karen Carr joins an array of exhibits on display at the Murie Science and Learning Center.

The piece depicts how researchers suggest this vast landscape we know as Denali today may have appeared in a time of dinosaurs some 70 million years ago.

12 Art of Watching

Nature writer and environmental philosopher Kathleen Dean Moore visited Denali as a Writer-in-Residence in June 2013.

In this essay, she advises park visitors ...

"It is something very much worth doing, to come to a place entirely new and practice the art of watching."

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Denali National Park and Preserve

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www.flickr.com/photos/**DenaliNPS**
www.youtube.com/user/**DenaliNPS**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Alaska

by the numbers

National park units = **23**
Visitors to national parks in 2012 = **2,412,524**
Economic benefit from national park tourism in 2011 = **\$237,000,000**
Hours donated by volunteers in 2012 = **105,809**
World Heritage Sites = **1**
National Heritage Areas = **1**
National Historic Landmarks = **49**
National Natural Landmarks = **16**
National Register of Historic Places listings = **418**
Places recorded by heritage documentation programs = **524**
Objects in national park museum collections = **5,177,878**
Archeological sites in national parks = **5,082**
Threatened and endangered species in national parks = **7**

www.nps.gov/alaska



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER



NPS GRAPHIC / ANGEL SOLOMON

Alagnak Wild River, King Salmon, AK

Alaska Public Lands Centers, (four sites) Anchorage, Fairbanks, Ketchikan, Tok, AK

Aleutian World War II National Historic Area, Unalaska, Dutch Harbor, AK

Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve, King Salmon, AK

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Nome, AK

Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kotzebue, AK

Denali National Park and Preserve, Denali Park, AK

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Bettles, AK
Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Gustavus, AK

Iñupiat Heritage Center, Barrow, AK

Katmai National Park and Preserve, King Salmon, AK

Kenai Fjords National Park, Seward, AK

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Skagway, AK

Kobuk Valley National Park, Kotzebue, AK

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, Port Alsworth, AK

Noatak National Preserve, Kotzebue, AK

Sitka National Historical Park, Sitka, AK

World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, Honolulu, HI, AK, CA

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Copper Center, AK

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, Eagle, AK

Services

Accessibility

Most restrooms are wheelchair accessible. Some trails, and tour and shuttle buses are wheelchair accessible. Please advise staff of needs when making a reservation. Park films are open-captioned. Find more information at <http://go.usa.gov/gg54>

Alaska Railroad

You can travel to Denali by rail from Fairbanks, Anchorage, or Talkeetna. Call 800 544-0552, or 907 683-2233 in Denali, or 907 265-2683 in Anchorage.

Banks

The closest bank is in Healy. ATM service is provided at several businesses one mile (1.6km) north of the park.

Child Care

Located on Sulfide Drive in Healy, the Denali Preschool and Learning Center is the only licensed daycare in the Denali Borough. Drop-in childcare is offered year-round, 7 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday for ages 1 month to 12 years. Documentation of current immunizations is required, or sign an exemption. Contact 907 683-7789.

Connectivity

Cell phones work in the park entrance area. There are no public phones west of Park Headquarters. Report emergencies to rangers, bus drivers, or campground hosts.

Dog Boarding

Available seven miles south of the park entrance. By day, or overnight. 907 683-2580, canineresort@tonglenlake.com

Gas and Propane

Available at gas stations one mile north of the park entrance, 11 miles north in Healy, and 29 miles south in Cantwell.

Glacier Landings

Visitors can opt to land on park glaciers aboard a ski-equipped airplane with:

Fly Denali, with offices in Talkeetna and Healy, AK
866 733-7768

www.flydenali.net

K2 Aviation, Talkeetna, AK
800 764-2291

www.flyk2.com

Sheldon Air Service, Talkeetna, AK
800 478-2321
www.sheldonairservice.com

Talkeetna Air Taxi, Talkeetna, AK
800 533-2219
www.talkeetnaair.com

Grocery, Laundry, and Showers

At the Riley Creek Mercantile, located near the entrance of the park, adjacent to the Riley Creek Campground.

Lost and Found

Call 907 683-9275 or visit the baggage check located across from the train depot, open daily 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Medical

The closest physicians and hospitals are in Fairbanks.

Canyon Clinic, urgent care facility, about a mile north of the park entrance at Mile 238.8. Open 9 am to 6 pm daily, and available on call 24 hours 907 683-4433.

Interior Community Health Center, located in the

Tri-Valley Community Center, 13 miles north of the park on Healy Spur Road. Clinic hours are 8 am to 5:30 pm weekdays. A physician's assistant is on call at 907 683-2211.

Talkeetna, Sunshine Community Health Center, Mile 4 of the Talkeetna Spur Road. Open 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Saturday, with 24-hour on-call services 907 733-2273.

Post Office

Located next to Riley Creek Campground near the park entrance.

Recycling Areas

Located at the Riley Creek Mercantile for aluminum, plastic, and batteries. Visitor centers, campgrounds, and rest stops have aluminum can receptacles.

Religious Services

Please check at the Denali Visitor Center for times and locations of religious services.

Road Lottery

This year's Road Lottery is Sept 12 to 15. For each day of the lottery, 400 names are drawn and those winners may drive the length of the Park Road in their personal vehicles. Names of those selected for permits are posted on the park website by June 15. Learn more at <http://go.usa.gov/rHBJ>

Sewage Dump Station

Located adjacent to the Riley Creek Mercantile. Free to campers staying in the park, \$5 fee for others, payable at the Riley Creek Mercantile. Facility may be closed early or late in season due to frozen ground or chance of freezing.



Entrance Fees

Seven-Day Pass: Individual (age 16 and older), \$10
Denali National Park and Preserve Annual Pass: \$40
America the Beautiful Interagency Passes:
Annual, \$80
Senior, \$10
Access, Free
Annual Military Pass, Free

Your Fees at Work

Eighty percent of fee dollars collected in the park return to Denali to pay for projects that have an impact on visitor experience. Recent projects include: informational signs, campground improvements, and trail erosion mitigation.



NPS PHOTO / NATHAN KOSTEGIAN

National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis visits with Denali park staff and volunteers.



Scan this code with a free app on your smartphone to link to trip-planning resources on the park website

<http://go.usa.gov/WSct>

How You Can Help Keep Wildlife Healthy and Wild

The bears of Denali are wild creatures behaving naturally. These solitary animals can be very dangerous. Denali is home to both black bears and grizzly bears. Black bears inhabit the forested areas of the park, while grizzly bears mainly live on the open tundra. Almost all bears along the Park Road are grizzlies. For your own protection, and to keep bears healthy and wild, please carefully read and abide by these rules. Each of us has an obligation to respect bears and their habitat. These rules are strictly enforced in Denali. Failure to observe them may result in citations, or fines.

BE ALERT

Bears are active both day and night and can be anywhere. Watch for tracks and scat.

DON'T SURPRISE

Bears may perceive you as a threat if you startle them. Never get between a sow and her cub. Bears are protective of their cubs.

MAKE NOISE

Warn bears of your presence by making noise—sing, shout, talk. Be especially careful in dense brush where visibility is low, when walking into the wind, and along rivers where bears may not hear you over the noise of the water.



Black bear

PHOTO COURTESY DOUG BROWN

DO NOT RUN

Running may elicit a chase response. Bears can run faster than 30 mph (50 km/hr). You cannot outrun them. If the bear is unaware of you, detour quickly and quietly away. Give the bear plenty of room, allowing it to continue its activities undisturbed.

BACK AWAY SLOWLY IF THE BEAR IS AWARE OF YOU

Speak in a calm, low-pitched voice while waving your arms slowly above your head. Bears that stand up on their hind legs are not threatening you, but merely trying to identify you. Should a bear approach or charge you, do not run. Do not drop your pack. Bears sometimes charge to within a few feet of a person before stopping or veering off. Dropping a pack may pique a bear's curiosity, causing it to investigate. Stand still until the bear moves away, then slowly back off.

NEVER APPROACH

Bears should live as free from human interference as possible. Give them space. Maintain a minimum distance of 300 yards (275 meters). Allowing a bear to approach for photographs is prohibited. If a bear changes its behavior due to your presence, you are too close.

IF A GRIZZLY MAKES CONTACT WITH YOU, PLAY DEAD

Curl up into a ball with your knees tucked into your stomach and your hands laced around the back of your neck. Leave your pack on to



Grizzly bears

NPS PHOTO / JACOB W FRANK

protect your back. If the attack is prolonged, fight back vigorously. If a black bear makes contact with you, fight back immediately.

BEAR SPRAY

When used properly, bear spray can be an effective deterrent for aggressive behavior by bears. If you decide to carry it, be aware that wind, spray distance, rain, and product shelf life all influence its effectiveness. Learn how to use it safely. Ask a park ranger if you have questions. When traveling on a bus, tell the driver you have bear spray so it can be secured appropriately.

Please report all bear incidents and encounters to a ranger. Park rangers and biologists need this information to document bear behavior for research and management purposes.



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Be wary of substitutes. Insect repellents, mace, and pepper spray designed for protection from other people do not have the same ingredients or effectiveness as bear spray.

Park Regulations and Safety Advisories

Top 10 Things to Know

For a safe and enjoyable visit, please become familiar with these important park rules and safety advisories.



Do not feed any wild animals, including birds. It is unhealthy for them, and encourages aggressive behavior that may require management action. All pet food, trash, coolers, and cooking tools must be kept secure unless in immediate use. We all have a shared responsibility to keep wildlife healthy and wild.



Do not approach wildlife. You must stay at least 25 yards (23 m) away from moose, sheep, wolves, and other animals. A distance of at least 300 yards (275 m) is required from bears. Regardless of distance, if any wild animal changes its behavior due to your presence, you are too close.



Moose are faster and much less docile than they appear. A cow moose with calves can be especially unpredictable and hazardous. **If a moose charges you, run away.** Dodge quickly behind large trees, cars, or structures. If you are chased while caught out in the open, zigzag or change direction often.



As you explore park trails and wilderness areas, be bear aware. You are safer hiking in groups. In areas of low visibility, make noise to avoid surprise encounters.

Do not run from a bear. If you are going to spend significant time in the outdoors in Alaska, carry bear spray, and know how to use and dispose of it safely.



Pets may be walked along the Park Road, in parking lots, on campground roads, along the Bike Path from the park entrance to the visitor center campus, and the Roadside Trail between the visitor center campus and Park Headquarters. Pets must be leashed with a lead that is six feet or shorter. Do not leave a tethered pet unattended. Owners must collect and dispose of pet feces.



In developed areas, stay on established trails and paths. If you are hiking with a group in areas where there are no established trails, spread out to reduce your impact on the landscape.



Leave what you find. If you find a historic object, artifact, archeological feature or natural curiosity, do not collect it. Federal regulations require that such discoveries remain in context. To help researchers and contribute to science, snap photos and carefully note the location, preferably with GPS reference coordinates.



Cyclists may ride on park roads, parking areas, campground loops, and the designated Bike Trail between the Nenana River and the Denali Visitor Center.



Share the road. Pass no closer than three feet (1.0 m) to bicycles and pedestrians, especially if your vehicle has large side mirrors. On gravel roads, travel at "no dust" speeds that do not kick up a plume that will wash over cyclists and pedestrians. If you see wildlife while driving, do not stop or impede the safe and free flow of traffic along any portion of the road. Instead, park in an established pullout, and watch from a safe distance.



It is the responsibility of visitors to understand all applicable firearms laws before entering the park. **Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in the park.** Those places are marked with signs at all public entrances. The park concessioner does not allow firearms on tour buses. Passengers may carry a firearm on shuttle buses but it must be unloaded and stored in a locked container. Except as part of authorized hunting activities, discharging weapons is strictly prohibited throughout the park. Learn more online at <http://go.usa.gov/Bcch>



25 yards 23 m

Moose, caribou, Dall sheep, wolf, active raptor nest, or occupied den site

300 yards 275 m

Bear

Watch Wildlife Safely

Please observe these rules for minimum distance from wild animals to ensure their safety and yours. Any distance that alters the behavior of a wild animal is too close.

Maintain minimum distances at all times. Resist the temptation to approach animals. Do not move to intercept an animal's path.

Use binoculars or a telephoto lens to observe an animal's natural behavior. Do not engage in photography if an animal moves closer than the minimum distance allowed. Remind others of their ethical responsibility when photographing animals.

Please do not follow an animal at close distance with a vehicle. Motorists must stop and allow an animal to cross the road safely.

Avoid stressing wildlife. Animals living here are engaged in a daily struggle to find food, shelter, and water necessary for survival. Avoid wildlife during sensitive times, such as when they are nesting, mating, or raising young.



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

“What’s different now is that the changes are happening faster—fast enough for people to sense and recognize.”

Robert Winfree
NPS Science Advisor



NPS PHOTO / ROB BURROWS

Top: A hybrid bus travels east from Sable Pass in late August.

Above: In mid-October, about six weeks later, a landslide covered that same spot with 30,000 cubic yards of permafrost that detached from underlying substrait.

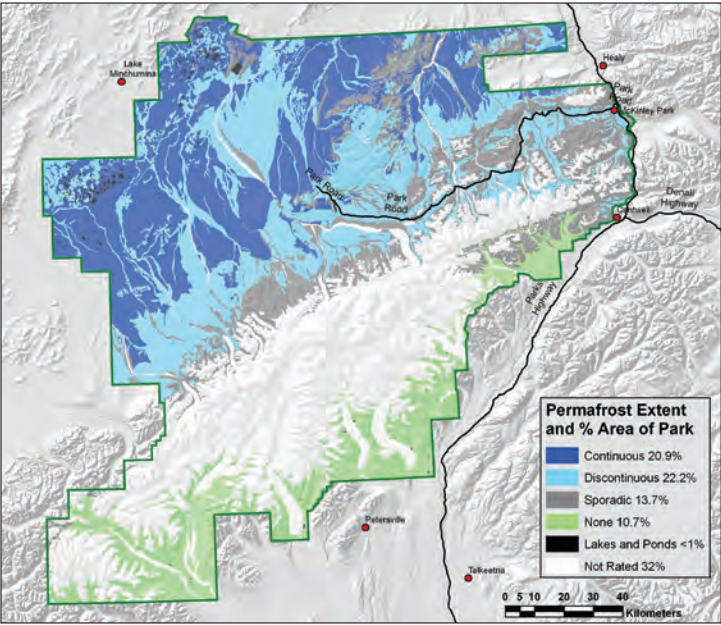
Slide Covers Park Road

A massive landslide spilled across the Park Road in October 2013. The slump occurred just west of Tattler Creek at about Mile 37 approaching Sable Pass, a part of the road that was already inaccessible to public traffic for the season. Thanks to limited snow, crews were able to clear the debris before the road was impassable.

An estimated 30,000 yards of rock and soil covered about 200 feet of the road in depths of up to 35 feet. The material released from a point 500 feet above the road, and flowed south below the road. It did not reach Igloo Creek.

Park Geologist Denny Capps said a three- to four-meter-thick mat of permafrost appears to have slid on an underlying layer of clay, movement that may have resulted from warming temperatures and water penetration. Capps said aerial photos of the slide area show cracks in the slope that may have allowed water to seep in and destabilize the soil.

“We do not know at this point that this is related to climate change,” Capps said. “However, it is consistent with permafrost degradation that we’ve seen in other areas in the region.”



Permafrost, or permanently frozen ground, is defined as soil, sediment, or rock that is frozen for at least two years. North of the Alaska Range, much of the park consists of “discontinuous” permafrost, with vast pockets of ground that stay within just a degree or two of freezing year round. Significant change in the landscape is likely to occur here as the climate changes.

Visitors See Fewer Wolves

In 2013, for a third consecutive year, researchers found that visitors traveling in buses on the Park Road had significantly declining opportunities to see wolves. In a random sample of 80 bus trips in summer 2013, wolves were seen on three occasions, or about 4 percent of the trips. By contrast, in the three previous years the percentages were 12 percent (2012), 21 percent (2011) and 44 percent (2010).

NPS biologists gather data on the wolf packs on the north side of the Alaska Range by radio tracking, and have documented the decrease in the number of wolves that den and roam in close proximity to the road in the eastern half of the park, as well as a decline in the overall number of wolves in Denali north of the Alaska Range. The proportion of bus trips where bears, moose, caribou, and sheep were seen varies by year, but none show the steady decline found with wolves.

“We are just beginning to learn about the factors, such as pack disruption, that play a role in magnifying



NPS PHOTO / JAY ELHARD

Two wolves approach the Park Road in 2013.

the impacts of individual wolf losses on viewability,” said Dr. Philip Hooe, Assistant Superintendent.

The decline of wolf numbers has not translated to larger numbers of viewed prey species, the research data shows.

The overall number of wolves in the packs north of the Alaska Range in the national park and preserve is also down. Spring counts went from 66 in 2012 to 55 in 2013, which is the lowest level documented since counts began in 1986. Hooe said that while this low number has impacts on the visitor experience and may have ecosystem effects, the population remains viable.

Sport hunting and trapping are legal in Denali National Preserve, located on the far western edges of the park. Subsistence harvests are legal in the preserve and the 1980 additions to the national park.

Documented wolf harvest is quite small. “We generally don’t see the wolves in the western portions of Denali moving to den near the Park Road,” Hooe said.

“The wolves commonly seen by visitors often leave the park to follow migrating prey species such as caribou,” Hooe said. “Prior to 2010, one of the areas at the boundary of the park most frequented by wolves was closed to hunting by the State of Alaska.” In 2010, the NPS asked the Alaska Board of Game to expand the buffer zone, which would have prohibited hunting and trapping in additional areas where many of the most-viewed wolves winter. The board declined this request, and also voted to eliminate the existing buffer zone along the park’s northeast boundary.

The park has an annual visitation of more than 400,000. About 200,000 visitors each year travel on buses to Toklat (Mile 53) or beyond.

Denali is Drier, Woodier, More Densely Vegetated


Mounting evidence suggests there already are significant effects in Denali due to climate change.

- Spruce is expanding into formerly treeless areas
- Woody vegetation is invading wetlands
- Open floodplains and terraces are being widely colonized by vegetation
- Ponds are shrinking
- Glaciers and related features are receding

“It is very clear that climate change is a fast-changing field of study,” said Robert Winfree, Science Advisor for the Alaska Region of the National Park Service based in Anchorage. “For anyone with more than a passing familiarity with Alaska, it’s also clear that major changes to ice, sea level, flora, and fauna have occurred here for thousands of years. What’s different now is that the changes are happening faster—fast enough for people to sense and recognize. The myriad ways in which climate change is affecting our lives, environment, resources, and the places we care

about, will be incompletely understood for long into the future—but waiting for complete certainty before responding is unlikely to be a viable solution.”

More than 200 comparisons of historic and contemporary photos of landscapes across the park are posted on the park website at “Exploring Landscape Change Through Repeat Photography” @ <http://go.usa.gov/BguF>


 Denali has a stewardship mandate to be more sustainable. Goals that it has established for itself include —

- Reduce energy and water consumption
- Create and maintain environmentally-friendly buildings
- Reuse or recycle waste
- Reduce pollution
- Make green purchases, and
- Promote a better understanding of the effects of climate change on natural and cultural resources.

<http://go.usa.gov/BgJ3>

Thanks For Riding the Bus

The bus that you ride in Denali is key to conserving the park's wilderness character for future generations. Each bus takes the place of dozens of personal vehicles, saves on fuel and emissions, and allows you to watch and enjoy scenery and wildlife more safely.

 The paved section of the Park Road from the entrance at the George Parks Highway to the Savage River

Check Station at Mile 14.7 is open to private vehicles during the regular season. The area is served by the **Savage River Shuttle**, a free courtesy shuttle with parking and departure points throughout the entrance area. It's especially well-suited for hiking and cycling logistics, and shoulder season outings. Plan on two hours roundtrip. See more details listed on Page 16. A map and descriptions of Savage area hiking trails appear on Page 8.

Departure

Tour buses depart from area hotels and the Wilderness Access Center. Please check pickup location prior to the date of departure. All **Visitor Transportation System (VTS)** shuttle buses depart from the Wilderness Access Center only.

Dates of Operation

Regular Season May 20 to Sept 11
Shoulder Season May 14-19 and Sept 16-21
Dates subject to change

Car Seats

Alaska State Law requires children to be in a car or booster seat. Children younger than 1 year of age or less than 20 pounds (9 kg) must be in a rear-facing infant seat. Children 1-4 years and at least 20 pounds (9 kg) must be in a child restraint. Children 5-7 years who are less than 57 inches (1.4 m) tall or less than 65 pounds (30 kg) must be in a booster seat. Parents are responsible for providing the appropriate car seat.

The concessioner makes efforts to provide infant and toddler seats free of charge at hotels, the Wilderness Access Center, Baggage Claim, and other areas. Some buses are equipped with two built-in toddler seats.

Accessibility


Wheelchair accessible buses are available on all bus systems. Please advise staff of your needs as you make reservations. American Sign Language interpretation is available with advanced request.

Firearms

The park concessioner does not allow firearms on tour buses. Passengers may carry a firearm on shuttle buses but it must be unloaded and stored in a locked container. Check with the concessioner in advance for more information.




Tours

 **Natural History Tour**
This tour focuses on presenting the rich


cultural and natural history of Denali. Your driver/naturalist provides a great introduction to the landscape, geology, and history of the park as you travel 17 miles into the park. Morning and afternoon departures are available. A snack and beverages are provided.

Length: 4-1/2 to 5 hours

 **Windows into the Wilderness**
This narrated tour to the


Teklanika River at Mile 30 provides a blend of history, science, and the opportunity to view wildlife and sweeping landscapes. At the Mountain Vista Trail (Mile 12), an interpreter and an educator introduce visitors to the cultural and scientific significance of Denali. The tour is an excellent choice for families because it includes demonstrations, activities, and a 3/4-mile walk. A snack and beverages are provided. Morning departures only.

Length: 5-1/2 to 6 hours

 **Tundra Wilderness Tour**
A narrated tour traveling

53 miles into the park to the Toklat River Contact Station with opportunities to view the park's wildlife and scenery. Tours depart in early morning and afternoon. A box lunch and beverages are provided.


Length: 7-8 hours

 **Kantishna Experience**
Exceptional opportunities

to view park wildlife and scenery while learning about early park history on this fully-narrated tour. Travels the full length of the Park Road to the historic mining district of Kantishna at Mile 92. A park ranger joins the tour to lead a short walk and tour in Kantishna. Lunch and beverages included. Morning departures only.

Length: 12 hours

Shuttles

 **Visitor Transportation System (VTS) Shuttle Buses**
Shuttles are for transportation and wildlife viewing.

Passengers may get off along the Park Road to hike and explore, then reboard later shuttle buses on a space available basis with a ticket for that day. Waits of up to one hour to reboard a shuttle bus are possible. See page 11 for a link to bus schedules posted online.

Bring plenty of food, water, and adequate warm clothing. No food is available for purchase beyond the entrance area. You may also want to bring field guides, binoculars, insect repellent, and head nets.

Fares are dependent on turn-around destination and do not include entrance fees. Youth discounts apply. Fares listed are for an adult age 16 and over. Youth age 15 and under are free.

All VTS buses have racks available for two bicycles. See page 7.



Visitors board tour and shuttle buses.

NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

| Destination | Highlights | Start | Time | Fare |
|---|--|--------|------------------------|--|
| Toklat River Mile 53.5, 85.4 km | Offers restrooms, visitor information desk, bookstore. Highlights include braided river, view of Divide Mountain, wildflowers, Dall sheep, grizzlies, caribou. | May 20 | 6-1/2 hours roundtrip | Adult, age 16 and older \$27.00 Youth, age 15 and younger FREE |
| Eielson Visitor Center Mile 65.9, 106.1 km | Offers restrooms, visitor information, art gallery, picnic tables. Highlights include views of Mount McKinley, tundra, trails, golden eagles, grizzlies, wolves, arctic ground squirrels. | June 1 | 8 hours roundtrip | Adult, age 16 and older \$34.50 Youth, age 15 and younger FREE |
| Wonder Lake Mile 84.4, 135.9 km (to junction) | Offers restrooms and picnic tables. Highlights include views of Mount McKinley, kettle ponds, moose, beaver, waterfowl, blueberries. | June 8 | 11 hours roundtrip | Adult, age 16 and older \$47.25 Youth, age 15 and younger FREE |
| Kantishna Mile 92.4, 148.4 km | This area is primarily a destination for lodge visitors and backpackers for backcountry access. Please respect private lands. | June 8 | 12 hours roundtrip | Adult, age 16 and older \$51.50 Youth, age 15 and younger FREE |
| Camper Bus and Backpackers Only | Tent campers can access backcountry units or Sanctuary, Teklanika, Igloo, and Wonder Lake campgrounds by camper bus. Reserve when making a camping reservation. Camper bus passes are good on any green bus with space available, for the entire time you are west of Mile 20. | June 1 | Depends on destination | Adult, age 16 and older \$34.50 Youth, age 15 and younger FREE |

Bus and campsite reservations 800 622-7275 Nationwide 907 272-7275 International www.reservedenali.com



NPS PHOTO / NATHAN KOSTEGIAN

Six Campgrounds Offer Direct Park Experience

Camping offers you a great way to experience the park. Whether you wish to tent-camp, or camp with an RV or other vehicle, one or more of the park campgrounds should suit your interests. Here are some important things to know.

- Check in after 11 am. Check out by 11 am.
- Quiet hours are between 10 pm and 6 am. At Riley Creek, Savage River, and Teklanika River campgrounds, generators may be operated only from 8 am to 10 am and 4 pm to 8 pm. No exceptions.
- Fires are allowed only in established grates at Riley Creek, Savage River, and Teklanika River campgrounds. The use of power saws and cutting live vegetation or standing deadwood are prohibited. Campfires must not be left unattended.
- Pets must be leashed at all times.They are not allowed on most trails, on river bars, and in the backcountry. Dispose of feces in garbage cans. Secure pet food inside a vehicle or food locker.
- Keep a clean camp and wash dishes immediately.
- Do not cook directly on fire grates. Use and dispose of foil.
- Never leave food, containers, or garbage unattended even for just a few minutes.
- All food, food containers, coolers, and dirty cooking utensils must be stored in a closed, hard-sided vehicle or in a campground food-storage locker whenever they are not in use. This includes freeze-dried and canned food, as well as beverages and scented items, such as soap, toothpaste, and sunscreen.



- Store all food and ice chests in vehicles or in the food lockers provided.
- Store and cook food away from sleeping areas.
- Scrape unwanted food from pots and plates and place in a secure trash container.
- Dispose of trash in a bear-resistant trash can or dumpster, available at campgrounds. Be sure dumpster lids are closed and latched.
- Do not leave items lying around your campsite.
- Do not feed any animal, including birds.



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

K E E P W I L D L I F E W I L D

Never feed or approach wildlife

| | Season Weather dependent | Sites | Water | Facilities | Cost / Night |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Riley Creek Campground Mile 0.2, near park entrance | All year; limited facilities from Sept. - May | 146 sites for vehicles and tents | Yes (no water in winter) | Flush and vault toilets | \$14* walk-in tent \$22-28* vehicles up to 30’ \$28* RV up to 40’ |
| Savage River Campground Mile 12.76 | May 19 - Sept. 15 | 33 sites for vehicles and tents | Yes | Flush and vault toilets | \$22* \$28* |
| Savage Group Sites Mile 12.76 | May 19 - Sept. 15 | 2 sites, tents only | Yes | Vault toilet | \$40* |
| Sanctuary Campground Mile 22.65 | May 20 - Sept. 10 | 7 sites, tents only no vehicles | No | Vault toilet | \$9* |
| Teklanika River Campground Mile 29.11 | May 20 - Sept. 15 | 53 sites for vehicles and tents | Yes | Vault toilet | \$16* |
| Igloo Creek Campground Mile 34.04 | May 20 - Sept. 10 | 7 sites, tents only no vehicles | No | Vault toilet | \$9* |
| Wonder Lake Campground Mile 84.42 (to junction) | June 8 - Sept. 10 | 28 sites, tents only no vehicles | Yes | Flush toilet | \$16* |

*Prices do not include a one-time, non-refundable campground reservation fee of \$5. Prices are subject to change. 50% discount available with Senior or Access passes only. Cancellations must be made by 11 am the day before arrival in order to receive a refund. Cancellation fee applies.

How to Make Reservations for Buses, Campsites

Advance reservations for all bus services and campsites for the 2014 season are available through mid-September. Each reservation for Visitor Transportation System (VTS) shuttle buses may include a maximum of eight seats. Make reservations online or by phone.

Phone lines are open from 7 am to 5 pm daily (Alaska time). Tickets can be purchased by phone up until the day before travel and picked up at the Wilderness Access Center (WAC).

Dial 800 622-7275 nationwide, or 907 272-7275 international, or visit www.reservedenali.com

Tickets

Prepaid, reserved tickets can be picked up at the WAC. It is not necessary to check in at the WAC if you already have your shuttle tickets.

You need to be prepared to board at a loading deck on the west side of the WAC 15 minutes before your departure. Any unclaimed, prepaid tickets for buses departing before 7 am may be picked up from the expeditors on the bus deck. Bus drivers do not sell tickets.

Campground permits and bus tickets may be picked up at either the Riley Creek Mercantile or the WAC.

Entrance Fees

Entrance fees are \$10 per person for adults age 16 years and older. Payment is included with your bus reservation or at the Denali Visitor Center. Payment can be made by credit card, cash, check, or money order.

Refund Policy

For each shuttle bus seat or campground site there is a \$4 cancellation fee. Shuttle bus cancellations must be made at least 24 hours before departure time. Campground cancellations must be made by 11 am the day before arrival.

Tour bus cancellations must be made seven days prior to departure. No refund within seven days. A \$4 change fee is collected for changes made to existing reservations.



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER



NPS PHOTO / CHARLOTTE BODAK

How Big is Denali?

The total of its park and preserve areas amounts to 6,028,203 acres or 9,419 square miles. So, walking across all of Denali at a rate of one acre a minute (about 70 yards) for 24 hours a day, 365 days a year would take 11 years, 5 months, 3 weeks, 6 days, 10 hours, 34 minutes, and 28 seconds, approximately.

Get Ready for a Day in the Park

Here's a checklist to help you plan your off-trail adventure in Denali.

- **Essential Gear:** Bring a map, compass, waterproof matches or lighter, first aid kit, knife, and a whistle. If you are going to be doing significant hiking in Alaska, consider carrying bear spray.
- **Clothing:** Take rain gear, a hat, and gloves. Dress in layers. Wool, fleece, or other non-absorbent synthetic clothing is preferable to cotton.
- **Insect Repellent and Head Net**
- **Footwear:** Wear sturdy, well-fitting hiking boots and take extra socks and gaiters to keep your feet dry.
- **Food:** Do not leave food or scented items unattended at any time. Avoid carrying scented, spiced, or smoked items.
- **Water:** Giardia occurs in the park. Boil all water or use a filter.
- **Sanitary Items:** Pack out all toilet paper, used pads, and tampons. Double wrap in plastic.
- **Tell a Buddy:** Tell someone where you are going and when you'll be back.



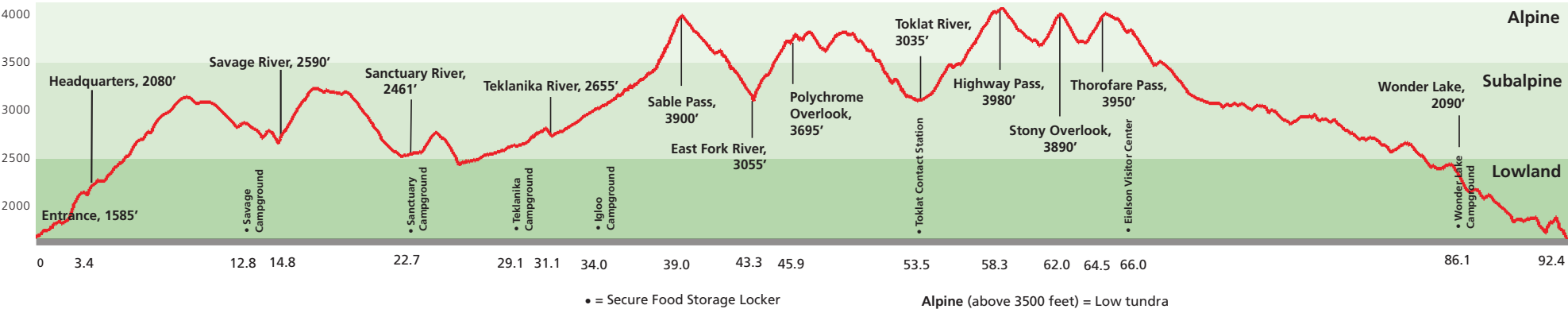
NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

Cycling the Denali Park Road

Bicycling is a great way to enjoy the Denali Park Road. You can help make it a pleasant and safe experience.

- Cyclists may ride on park roads, parking areas, campground loops, and the designated Bike Path.
- Stay attuned to road surface, traffic, and weather conditions as you're riding. Travel single file, keep to the right, and comply with traffic regulations.
- Bicycles can be transported free on the **Savage River Shuttle** and on all park shuttle buses. Space is limited to two bicycles per bus. Check availability or make reservations at the Wilderness Access Center or www.reservedenali.com
- Bike racks are provided at campgrounds, rest areas, and visitor centers. If you go day hiking along the Park Road, carry your bike 25 yards from the roadway and hide it from view. If you're leaving it overnight, tag it with contact information.
- Wild animals are curious and opportunistic. Do not leave food or scented items on your bicycle unattended. Use a food storage locker provided at campgrounds and other locations, or use a bear-resistant food container provided free with a backcountry camping permit.
- If a bear or wolf appears near you or your planned route, do not try to outride it. Stop and dismount. Keep all your gear with you. Back away slowly. Wait for the animal to move away. If there is a vehicle nearby, use it as a barrier between you and the bear or wolf.

Denali Park Road elevation contour (in feet)



Alpine (above 3500 feet) = Low tundra
Subalpine (2500 to 3500 feet) = Scrub vegetation, open spruce woodland, meadow
Lowland (Below 2500 feet) = Black spruce forest and woodland, white spruce and paper birch forest



NPS PHOTO / NATHAN KOSTEGIAN



Online Guides and Videos Entrance Area Trails

Day Hike Resources = <http://go.usa.gov/j2XJ>

McKinley Station Trail
Online tour and video = <http://go.usa.gov/Bcx4>
PDF = <http://go.usa.gov/Bcxk>

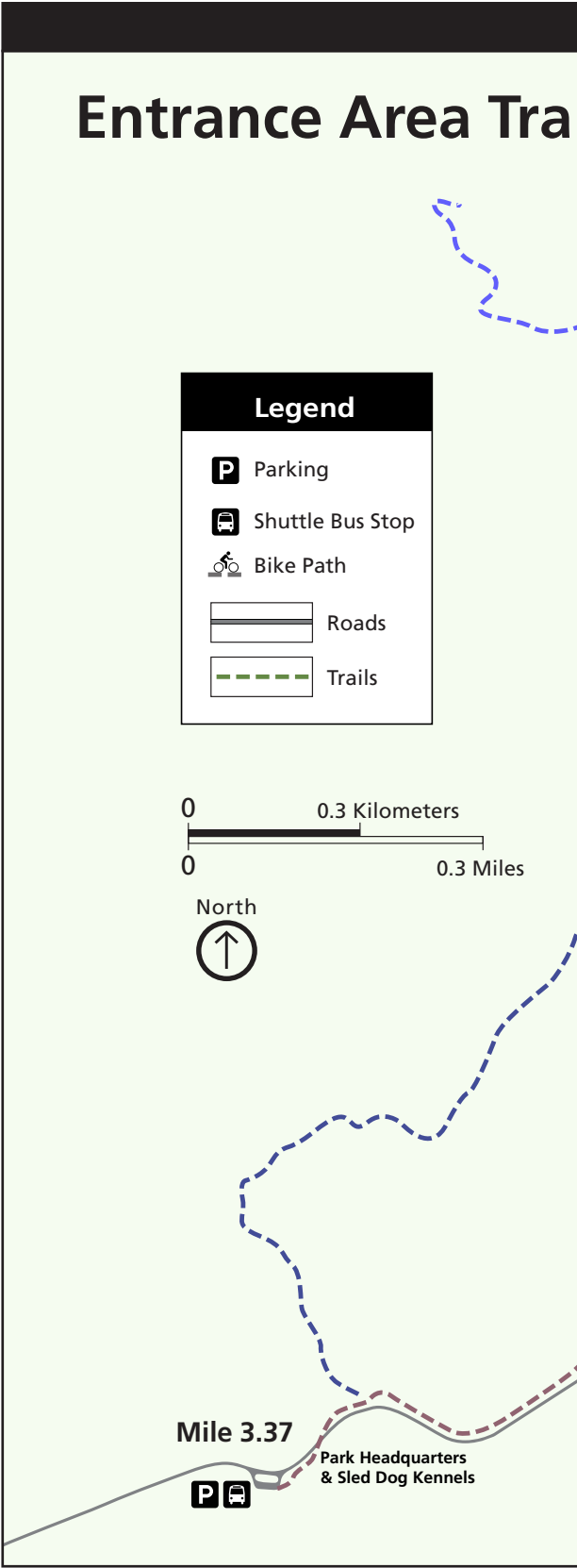
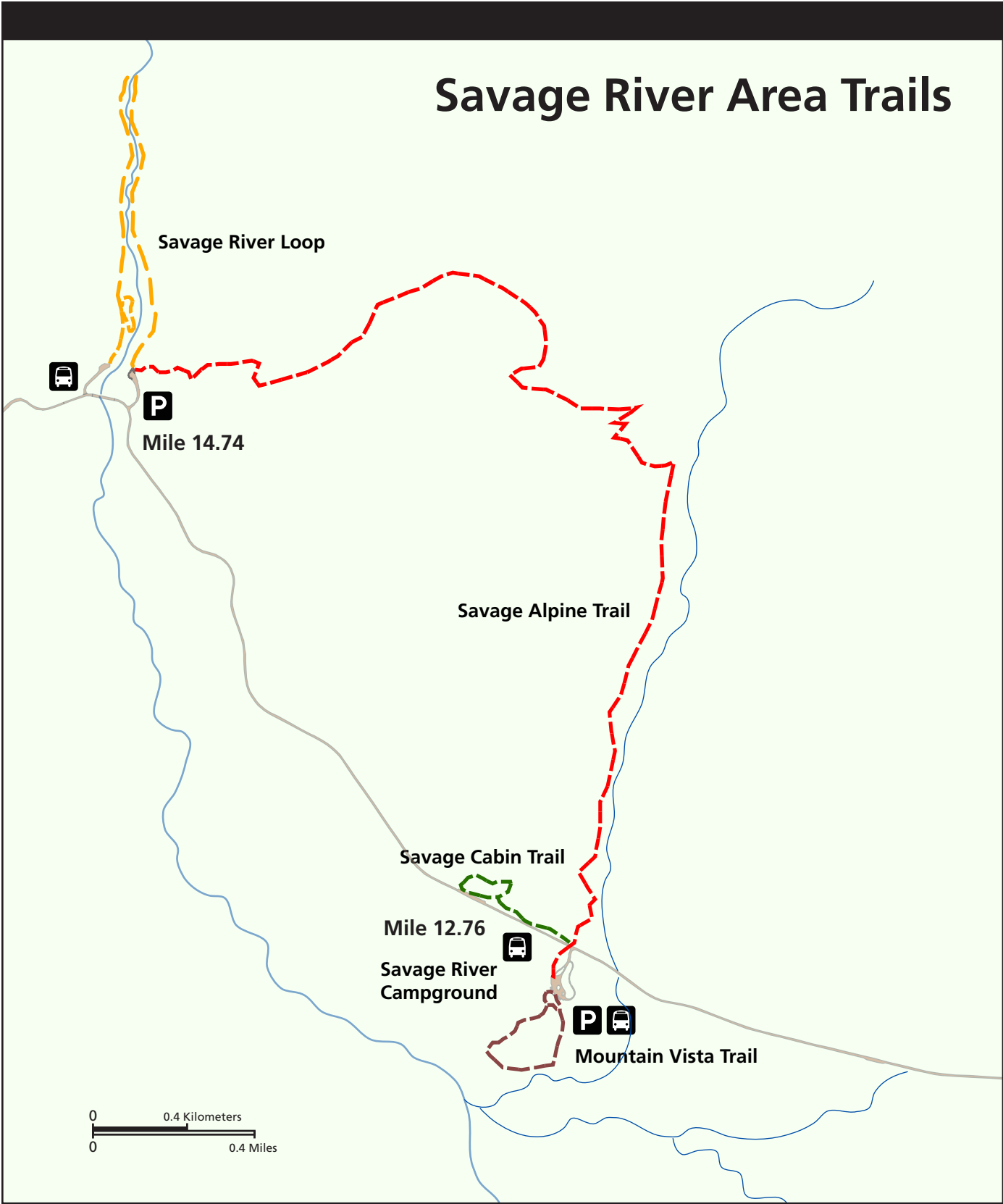
Mount Healy Overlook Trail
Video = <http://go.usa.gov/Bcad>
PDF = <http://go.usa.gov/BcxP>

Roadside Trail
Video = <http://go.usa.gov/BcaF>
PDF = <http://go.usa.gov/BcxG>

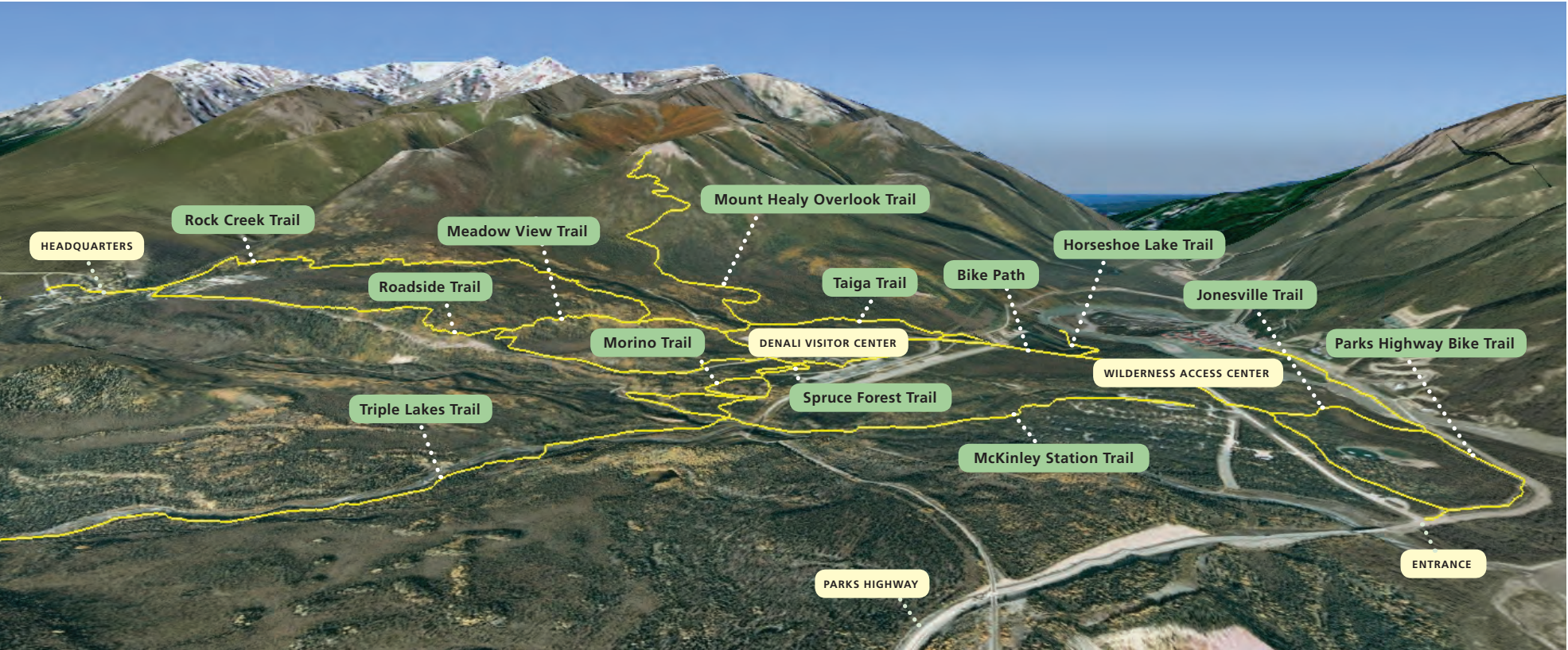
Rock Creek Trail
Video = <http://go.usa.gov/BcC3>
PDF = <http://go.usa.gov/Bcxz>

Savage River Loop Trail
Video = <http://go.usa.gov/BcCT>

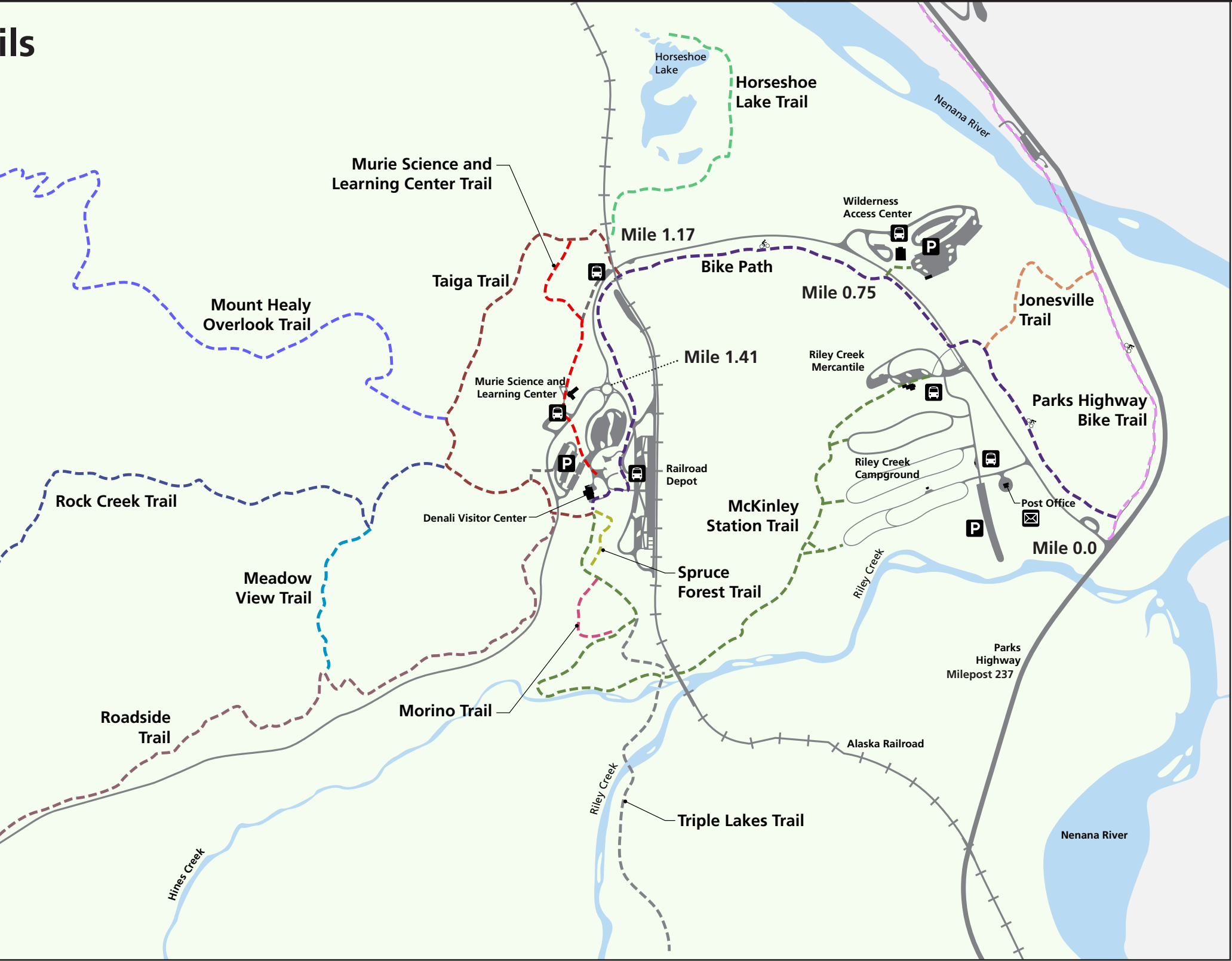
Triple Lakes Trail
Video = <http://go.usa.gov/BcaW>
PDF = <http://go.usa.gov/BcaC>



| | Connections | Time | Distance | Change | Grade | Trail Width | Surface |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|------------|-------|-------------|---|
| Mountain Vista Trail | Located at Mountain Vista Rest Area, at Mile 12.4 of the Denali Park Road. Can be accessed by the free Savage River Shuttle and private vehicle, with ample parking available. | 30-minute loop | 0.6 miles 1.0 km | 50 feet | 5% | 6 feet | Compacted gravel |
| Savage Alpine Trail | Connects Savage River and Mountain Vista day use areas. Parking available at either end. Use free Savage River Shuttle to return to your vehicle. Considered strenuous. | Three hours one-way | 4.0 miles 6.4 km | 1,500 feet | 25% | 2 feet | Native soils with roots and rocks, gravel |
| Savage Cabin Trail | Limited parking available. Trail to Savage Cabin includes a series of interpretive waysides emphasizing local cultural history. (Living history presentations available only to concessioner tours.) | 30-minute loop | 0.8 miles 1.3 km | 50 feet | 5% | 6 feet | Compacted gravel |
| Savage River Loop Trail | Located at the Savage River at Mile 14.74. Very limited parking available. Can be accessed by free Savage River Shuttle. | 1.5-hour loop | 2.0 miles 3.2 km | negligible | none | 2 feet | Native soils with roots and rocks |



NPS GRAPHIC / JON PAYNTER



| | Connections | Time | Distance | Change | Grade | Trail Width | Surface |
|---|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------|---|
| Bike Path | Connects visitor center campus, Wilderness Access Center, Riley Creek Campground, Mercantile and Post Office to the Park Entrance and services in the Nenana Canyon | 45 minutes one-way | 1.7 miles 2.7 km | 150 feet | 5% | 10 feet | Compacted gravel |
| Horseshoe Lake Trail | From Taiga Trail or Bike Path join Horseshoe Lake Trail at railroad tracks (limited parking available) | 45 minutes one-way | 3.0 miles 4.8 km | 250 feet | 5 to 20% | 5 feet | Native soils with roots and rocks |
| Jonesville Trail | From the Bike Path (near the Riley Creek Mercantile), connects to the Parks Highway Bike Trail and services in the Nenana Canyon | 10 minutes one-way | 0.34 miles 0.64 km | 75 feet | 10% | 4 feet | Compacted gravel |
| McKinley Station Trail | From the Denali Visitor Center to Riley Creek Campground and Riley Creek Mercantile (offers access to the Triple Lakes Trail) | One hour one-way | 1.6 miles 2.6 km | 100 feet | 8.5% | 5 feet | Compacted gravel |
| Meadow View Trail | Connects Rock Creek Trail and Roadside Trail to form a 1.6 mile/2.6 km loop back to the Denali Visitor Center | 1.5 hour loop | 0.3 miles 0.5 km | none | Access trails up to 15% | 2.5 feet | Compacted gravel |
| Morino Trail | From the Denali Visitor Center, take the McKinley Station Trail for 0.4 miles to the Morino Trail, a short spur trail to the area of what used to be the Morino Roadhouse and homestead | 15 minutes one-way | 0.2 mile 0.3 km | none | none | 5 feet | Compacted gravel |
| Mount Healy Overlook Trail | From the Denali Visitor Center, take Taiga Trail for 0.3 miles, then look for Mount Healy Overlook Trail junction Considered strenuous | Two hours one-way | 4.5 miles 7.3 km | 1,700 feet | 25% | 2 feet | Native soils with roots and rocks |
| Murie Science and Learning Center Trail | From the Denali Visitor Center, this trail connects to the Murie Science and Learning Center, then leads toward Horseshoe Lake and the Taiga Trail Loop, with a spur trail to the Bike Trail | 20 minutes one-way | 0.6 mile 1.0 km | 80 feet | 10% | 4 feet | Compacted gravel |
| Parks Highway Bike Trail | A multi-use path that runs parallel to the George Parks Highway from the Park Entrance to the Nenana River Bridge and hotels, restaurants, shops and businesses in Nenana Canyon beyond | 20 minutes one-way | 0.6 mile 1.0 km | 50 feet | less than 5% | 8 feet | Asphalt |
| Roadside Trail | From Denali Visitor Center via Taiga Trail to Park Headquarters and Sled Dog Kennels | One hour one-way | 1.8 miles 2.9 km | 350 feet | 15% | 3 feet | Compacted gravel |
| Rock Creek Trail | From Denali Visitor Center via Taiga Trail to Park Headquarters and Sled Dog Kennels | Two hours one-way | 2.4 miles 3.8 km | 400 feet | 15% | 2.5 feet | Compacted gravel |
| Spruce Forest Trail | For a short accessible loop, travel between the first and second junction from the Denali Visitor Center trailhead | 30-minute loop | 0.3 miles 0.5 km | none | none | 5 feet | Compacted gravel |
| Taiga Trail | From the Denali Visitor Center or railroad crossing trailhead, provides access to Rock Creek, Mount Healy Overlook, and Roadside trails | 45 to 60 minutes one-way | 0.9 miles 1.5 km | 75 feet | 5 to 15% | 2 feet | Gravel with open ditches to step across |
| Triple Lakes Trail | From the Denali Visitor Center via the McKinley Station Trail, or a pullout at the north side of the Nenana River Bridge approximately Mile 231.5 of the George Parks Highway | Five hours one way | 9.3 miles 14.9 km | 1,000 feet | 20% | 2 feet | Compacted gravel, soils, rocks, roots, wood planks, suspension bridge |

Trails Beyond the Entrance Area

| | Connections | Time | Distance | Change | Grade | Trail Width | Surface |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------|-----------------------|------------|----------|-------------|--|
| Tundra Loop Trail | From the Eielson Visitor Center, at Mile 66 of the Denali Park Road, this short loop explores alpine tundra plant community | 15-minute loop | 0.33 miles 0.5 km | negligible | 12% | 10 feet | Compacted gravel |
| Thorofare Ridge Trail | From the Eielson Visitor Center, this switchback trail climbs to a ridge for high, scenic views of Mount McKinley and a vast expanse of tundra beyond | One hour one-way | 0.82 miles 1.3 km | 1,000 feet | 25% | 5 feet | Native soils with roots and rocks |
| McKinley Bar Trail | From a road junction approaching Wonder Lake Campground, this trail passes through wet meadows and enters spruce forest, and ends at the McKinley River | 90 minutes one-way | 0.34 miles 0.64 km | negligible | 5 to 15% | 2 feet | Native soils with roots and rocks, wood planks |

Backcountry Trips Begin with a Free Permit, Safety Talk

A backpacking trip in Denali's vast wilderness areas is unlike backpacking in most other national parks. Be prepared to find your own way across the landscape, and to cover a fraction of the distance in a day that you might manage elsewhere.

Overnight stays in the backcountry require a free permit available at the **Backcountry Information Center (BIC)**. Located next to the Wilderness Access Center (WAC), the BIC is open 9 am to 6 pm daily. Arrive no later than 5 pm to obtain a permit. Call 907 683-9590, or visit <http://go.usa.gov/duw>

The permit includes these steps:

- Plan your itinerary
- Watch backcountry safety video
- Attend the ranger safety talk
- Mark your map
- Obtain a camper bus ticket at the WAC only after completing your backcountry orientation

Permits are issued only in person, no more than one day in advance. Permits are not required for day hikes, but some areas may be closed to entry. Hikers should stop at the BIC for a map and current information.

Denali's vast backcountry is divided into units. Each has a daily quota for the number of people who may camp there. Because more popular units fill early, be flexible when planning your trip. Most units require the use of bear-resistant food containers (BRFCs), loaned free of charge with a permit. All food, toiletries, and garbage must be stored in these containers. These containers are lightweight, cylindrical canisters designed to keep bears from obtaining human food and trash.

Leave Denali As You Found It

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Camp and Travel on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Others



leave no trace™
CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS



The backcountry permit process includes a safety orientation with an experienced park ranger.

NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

Since the introduction of BRFCs in 1984, there has been a 95 percent reduction in bears obtaining backpackers' food and an 88 percent decrease in property damage. All food, including freeze-dried and canned foods and beverages, and scented items, such as soap and sunscreen, must be kept in the containers when not in use.

- Cook and store food at least 100 yards/ meters downwind from your tent in an area with good visibility in all directions.
- Keep an eye out for approaching bears.
- Be prepared to put food away in a hurry.
- Avoid cooking greasy or odorous foods.
- Do not sleep in the same clothes you wore while cooking.
- Keep a clean and tidy camp.
- Pack out all trash.



Find camping guides, quadrant maps and other orientation resources at park bookstores, and online at www.alaskageographic.org/store

Plan Your Return With Free Shuttle Schedules

To help you plan transportation logistics for your day hike or backpacking trek in Denali, download a single PDF (nine pages, 334 kb) that lists all Visitor Transportation System (VTS) shuttle bus departures and stops along the entire Park Road for summer 2014.



Please pay close attention to effective dates listed on timetables. Schedules are subject to change without notice.

<http://go.usa.gov/BNHe>

What's Burning?

The smoke that you may see or smell frequently originates from wildfires. Lightning ignites a highly flammable black spruce and fire quickly consumes the tree. Intense heat opens serotinous cones and disperses new seeds onto the forest floor, thus continuing the cycle that has gone on for time immemorial. Fire is a constant force of regeneration here.



Retired Superintendent Paul Anderson leads a hike in the rain.



Blueberries



River dancers

NPS PHOTOS / CHARLOTTE BODAK



An Ancient, Wild Landscape Comes Alive in New Park Mural

Seventy million years ago in Denali, if you had hiked into the wild landscape, you would have seen hadrosaurs instead of caribou grazing, with troodonts instead of wolves doing the stalking, and boggy wetlands where we now have braided rivers. The climate would have been cool and moist, more like Seattle in present times.

To get there, just follow the theropod tracks you find painted on pathways outside the Denali Visitor Center.

The MSLC is your connection to research and discovery in Alaska’s arctic and subarctic parks. The NPS partners with Alaska Geographic, Denali Education Center, and other organizations to offer science exhibits and education programs at the MSLC year-round.

In the summer, the MSLC offers such experiences as public presentations, half-day classes, multi-day field courses, teacher trainings, and youth camps. Visitors can learn about park science in the exhibit area and get current park information at the front desk.



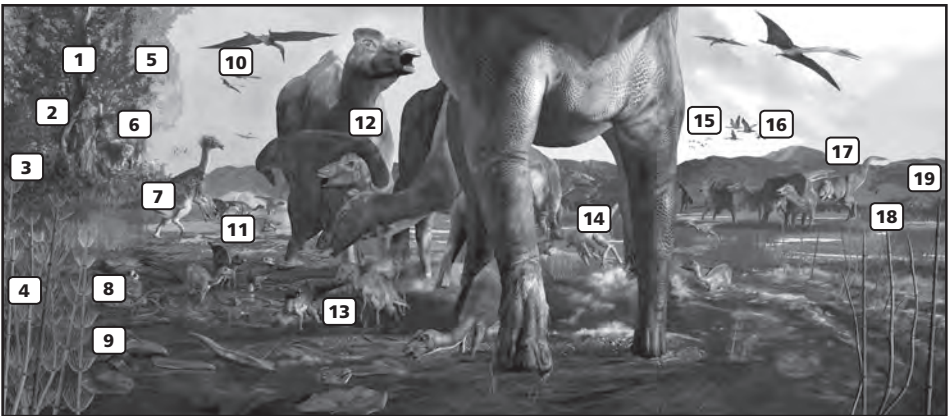
A researcher measures a track.

NPS PHOTO / DANIEL LEIFHEIT

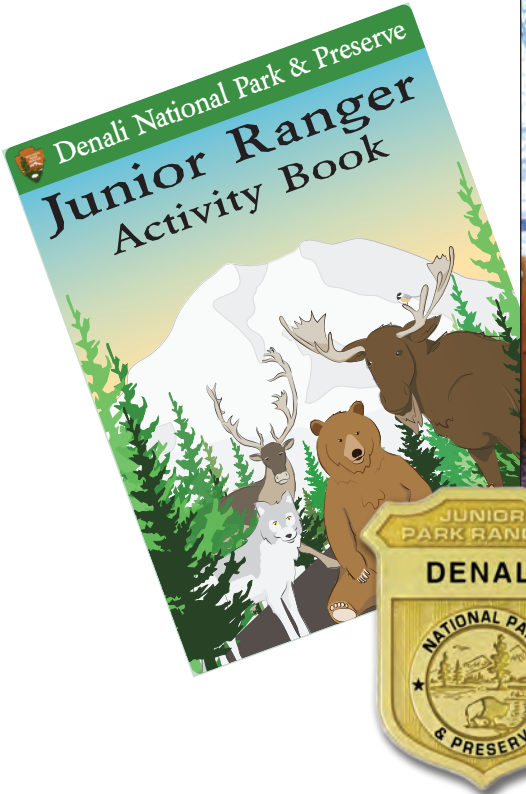
From a bus today, you won’t see dinosaurs, other than their present day descendants, birds, but you can find their fossilized footprints in numerous locations throughout the park. You can journey into a time when dinosaurs roamed Denali by seeing for yourself artist Karen Carr’s new 50-square-foot mural, now on display in the exhibits area of the Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC).



Hours at the MSLC are 9 am to 4:30 pm daily. For a schedule of field courses and programs, call 907 683-6432 or visit www.murieslc.org



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 <i>Metasequoia</i> (conifer tree) | 8 Sulfur-type butterflies | 14 <i>Troodon</i> (theropod, carnivore) |
| 2 <i>Menispermites</i> (vine) | 9 <i>Haemanthophyllum cordatum</i> (wetland plant) | 15 Water fowl |
| 3 Alder-like shrub | 10 Pterosaurs | 16 Crane-like birds |
| 4 <i>Equisetum</i> (fern-allies, plants) | 11 <i>Edmontonia</i> (nodosaur, herbivore) | 17 <i>Nanuqsaurus</i> (theropod, carnivore) |
| 5 <i>Ginkgo</i> (tree) | 12 <i>Edmontosaurus</i> (hadrosaur, herbivore) | 18 Alluvial fan (sediment deposit) |
| 6 <i>Pachyrhinosaurus perotorum</i> (ceratopsian, herbivore) | 13 <i>Edmontosaurus</i> chicks | 19 Cycadophytes (seed plants) |
| 7 <i>Therizinosaur</i> (theropod, herbivore) | | |



NPS PHOTO / DANIEL LEIFHEIT



Do you collect stamps at national parks?

Denali has six. For a list of locations, see page 16. Park Passport books are available at Alaska Geographic bookstores, and online @ www.alaskageographic.org/store

The park has a brand new **Junior Ranger Activity Book** this year. If you complete it while you're here, show your work to a park ranger, take an oath, and receive a badge. Free copies are available from bus drivers and at seven locations — Denali Visitor Center, Murie Science and Learning Center, Savage Check Station, Wilderness Access Center, Toklat River Contact Station, Eielson Visitor Center, and the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station. Learn more at <http://go.usa.gov/DLj>

The **Denali Discovery Pack** program features durable backpacks families can check out at no cost during their visits. Inside there are eight lessons in an activity guide organized by tundra and taiga habitat. Visit the Denali Visitor Center to check out a backpack for your whole family.



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

On the Bus, Watching

BY KATHLEEN DEAN MOORE

“WATCH CAREFULLY,” THE BUS DRIVER SAYS. “There are fifty-one pairs of eyes on this bus, so collectively we have a greater chance of seeing things than any of us alone.” All eyes are turned to the windows as the bus churns past the subalpine fens where moose might stand knee-deep in buttercups. All eyes are turned to the windows in the heather highlands, where bears might dig roots or caribou might look up from their grazing. All of us are watching.

Watching. From the Old English word, *waeccan*, which means “to be awake.” Awake to the world outside the window, awake to the tangled plant and animal lives in the alpine’s short summer, awake to the mountain light through storms. Watching is more than paying attention. For the passengers, there is glad anticipation in the watching, an eagerness to see something we have seen only in films, something we might have travelled halfway around the world to see, something silently yearned for, a wild story to tell.

The bus driver slows and stops. “Wolf!” he announces in a stage whisper. He pulls off his sunglasses and points them out the door. “To the right, there, in the gully at the edge of the road.” Everyone — the German women in hand-knit sweaters, the three children from Albuquerque, the Japanese lovers in the backseat, the white-haired couples from the cruise ships — all press to the right. They are searching for the wolf, but searching also for a glimpse of what is self-determined and astonishing, searching for assurance that there is still untamed beauty and wildness in the reeling world.

“Do you see him?”

“There, half hidden by the bush.”

The little girl with toy binoculars sees him first. “It’s sort of grey,” she offers.

Then we all see him. The wolf bites at his glorious tail, then sits on his haunches and gazes past the blue-bell meadow to the rocky moraine.

Humans are born watchful, squirting wide-eyed into the world. Nothing new escapes a child’s eyes. But if, somehow along the way toward adulthood, the child starts to take the world for granted — literally that, as a given — then the great, wild world can fade from the child’s vision, nothing more than the background of the set on which a life plays out. At that point, it is something very much worth doing, to come to a place entirely new and practice the art of watching.

The Art of Watching

1. WATCH FOR SHADOWS

Animals have evolved to hide in the tapestry of their colors, so it may not be the animals themselves, but their shadows, that catch the eye. A gray wolf can disappear in gray boulders, but she cannot hide the shadow loping upside-down along the gulch beside her. Watch for the black shadow of a golden eagle drawing a topographic line across valleys and moraines, the shadow of a caribou’s neck stretched by evening sun over tundra, maybe even the pooling shadow of a lynx crouched on a smooth ledge.

2. WATCH FOR REFLECTIONS

If there are swallows swooping over the pond, the watcher will see their reflections first. It will take some searching to find the birds themselves, hidden as they are against the sweeping limbs of spruce. If there is a beaver, watchers will first see its wake raising a ripple on the reflected sky. The ribcage of a drowned moose shows itself as a white ladder on the blue reflecting pool beside the river.

3. WATCH UP AND WATCH DOWN

Up and up: follow the white mounds of mountain avens into the fellfields, across the talus, to the ice-sharp ridges, to the last green cliff, to the highest pinnacle of rock, and there they are, five white specks, Dall sheep grazing slowly through the rustling applause of the endless wind. But the porcupine peers from the culvert under the road, and the ptarmigan calls from the campground sign.



NPS PHOTO / CHARLOTTE BODAK

Kathleen Dean Moore, Writer-in-Residence in 2013, is a nature writer and environmental philosopher best known for books set on the edge of water – *Riverwalking*, *Holdfast*, *Pine Island Paradox*, and *Wild Comfort*. Distinguished Professor emerita at Oregon State University, she travels widely to speak about ethics and climate change.

4. WATCH FOR MOTION. WATCH FOR STILLNESS.

At a distance, the only difference between a bear and a boulder is that the bear will lift her head to make sure her cub has not strayed. Bears swing their giant heads through the wildflowers or lope along the riverbank. But when willows whip in the wind, the bears will be the one thing holding still.

5. WATCH WITH CONSTANTLY MOVING EYES

Scan the landscape restlessly, the closest thickets to the far peaks. Constant motion is the trick of the veteran watcher. The highest resolution of the human eye is not in the center, but slightly off to the side. So trust the flickering glance more than the lingering stare. But don’t stop there. Look toward the future, when the green leaves of poplars will float like yellow boats down the river as the first snow mounds on midstream rocks. Then look into the past. The purple hanging valleys and green tundra plains remain from the Pleistocene, when wooly mammoths wrapped their trunks around sedge clumps and stuffed them between their massive molars.

6. WATCH FOR THINGS THAT HAVE NO NAME

There is no name for the little nests of leaves and mud that mark the flood line in riparian trees. Or the broken-heart shape of moose tracks in mud. Or the clapping dance of a child chasing a mosquito.

There is no name for the moment on a summer night when dusk becomes indistinguishable from dawn, when lavender becomes rose. There is no name for the dangerous unity of red fox and arctic ground squirrel. Words, the relentless nouns of the English language, divide the world into sharp-edged and familiar things. If there were no words at all, how much easier it would be to understand that all things blend without boundaries into one creative Whole — for which there is no name.

7. WATCH WITH CLOSED EYES

While the watching eyes are resting, the other senses come to life. Dozing after lunch, bus passengers can smell a passing grizzly — the stink of old garbage and outhouse – or the new growth of balsam poplars — sweet honey with lemon. Soaking in the morning sun, we can hear water drip from the roof of the ice cave undercut by the stream — a children’s bell choir, the random eagerness of the tinkling silver bells. Resting in the back of the bus, dusty and weary from the day, we taste mountains pulverized by time. And what do we feel with our eyes closed? Maybe a thunderstorm receding — that deep, clean calm.

8. WATCH FOR WHAT CANNOT BE SEEN

Some things cannot be seen because they are hidden: a falling fountain of northern lights, washed out by the blaze of the sun. Some things cannot be seen because they are gone: the pregnant alpha female of the Grant Creek wolf pack, killed by a trapper at the boundary of the park. Some things cannot be seen because they are too fast: a falcon diving for a vole. And some things cannot be seen because they are too slow: a mountain rising where North America scrapes under the floor of the sea.

9. WATCH FOR SAMENESS, AND WATCH FOR DIFFERENCE

Compare the exact shade of yellow on the shoulders of a sow grizzly in sunshine with the yellow velvet on the antlers of a caribou, or the yellow belly of an arctic warbler, or willow catkins backlit at dusk. How is it that light, usually so imaginative, returns again and again to this buttery glow? Contrast the growth pattern of aspen trees — the dusty trunk dividing into branches into twigs into leaders and leaves — with the growth pattern of streams. Tiny rills in the shadows of snowfields join streams that join waterfalls that gather in rivers that flow through gravel to the one great sea. Why do trees endlessly divide but rivers eternally gather?

10. WATCH TO WONDER AT THE WORLD

What is this astonishing world, where white anemones turn their faces to follow the sun, where a bear murmurs as she nurses her cub, where sunlight plays ice like a xylophone, where bees crawl down the throats of purple bells? A good day of watching, this glad and grateful attention — a scour of wind, an avalanche of rocks, the tundra that unrolls to the edge of the known world — these remind watchers that there are interests that are not our own, there is power we did not create, there are depths we cannot fathom, there are mysteries beyond words. This understanding may be what we are really watching for through rain that pocks the dust on the windows of the bus.

Events Calendar and Artist-in-Residence Outreach Activities

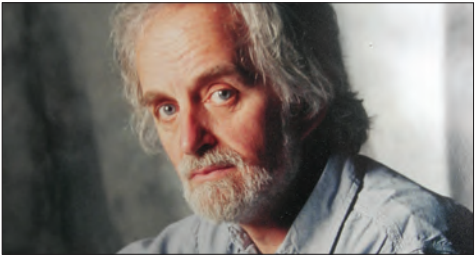
| | | | | |
|-------------|------|------|---|---|
| Mon May 26 | 7 pm | MSLC | How Has a Century of Climate Change Affected Denali's Small Mammals? | Link Olson |
| Thur May 29 | 7 pm | MSLC | Birds | Scott Weidensaul |
| Mon June 2 | 7 pm | MSLC | Do Snowshoe Hares Eat Dall Sheep? | Steve Arthur |
| Wed June 4 | 7 pm | MSLC | A World Underfoot: Mosses & Lichens of Interior Alaska | Sarah Stehn |
| Sun June 8 | 7 pm | MSLC | My Life With Bears | Stacy Studebaker |
| Mon June 9 | 7 pm | MSLC | What Future for the Wildness of Wilderness? | Roger Kaye |
| Wed June 11 | 7 pm | MSLC | Caribou Studies in Denali | Layne Adams |
| Mon June 16 | 7 pm | MSLC | Here Today: Ecology of Snowshoe Hares in Alaska | Knut Keilland |
| Wed June 18 | 7 pm | MSLC | Invasive Species: Coming Soon to an Ecosystem Near You | Trish Wurtz |
| Thu June 19 | 7 pm | DVC | Writer-in-Residence outreach: Poetry Reading | Tom Sexton |
| Sun June 22 | 7 pm | MSLC | Why Is Denali So High? | Sarah Roeske |
| Wed June 25 | 7 pm | MSLC | Lessons From The Long-Term Denali Golden Eagle Study: Why The Long View Matters | Carol McIntyre |
| Mon June 30 | 7 pm | MSLC | Floating the Susitna | Chris Dunn |
| Wed July 2 | 7 pm | MSLC | Wolverines | Howard Golden Mike Harrington |
| Thu July 3 | 3 pm | DVC | Artist-in-Residence outreach activity: "Paper Art in the Park," ages 12 and up | Lorraine Bubar |
| Mon July 7 | 7 pm | MSLC | Among Wolves: Gordon Haber's Insights Into Alaska's Wolves | Marybeth Holleman |
| Wed July 9 | 7 pm | MSLC | TBD | |
| Sun July 13 | 7 pm | MSLC | Wilderness Idea in Alaska | Steve Haycox |
| Wed July 16 | 7 pm | MSLC | Composing in the Wilderness | Stephen Lias |
| Thu July 17 | 3 pm | DVC | Artist-in-Residence outreach activity: Hands-on weaving, ages 12 and up, class limit 10 | George-Ann Bowers |
| Sat July 19 | 7 pm | DVC | Denali Music Festival performance of a selection from the "Composing in the Wilderness" program http://go.usa.gov/bzQA | Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival Chamber Orchestra Robert Franz conducting |
| Sun July 20 | 7 pm | MSLC | Methane Gas Release with Climate Change | Katey Walter Anthony |
| Wed July 23 | 7 pm | MSLC | TBD | |
| Mon July 28 | 7 pm | MSLC | Wilderness, History, and Archeology in Denali National Park | Phoebe Gilbert |
| Wed July 30 | 7 pm | MSLC | Dinosaurs of Denali Update | Tony Fiorillo |
| Thu July 31 | 3 pm | DVC | Writer-in-Residence outreach activity: Reading and writing workshop on porch walls, for all ages | Angela Morales |
| Sun Aug 3 | 7 pm | MSLC | Life of a little-known bird species in Alaska | Abby Powell |
| Mon Aug 4 | 7 pm | MSLC | Effects of climate-related lake drying on biodiversity in Alaska | Brad Griffith |
| Wed Aug 6 | 7 pm | MSLC | TBD | |
| Mon Aug 11 | 7 pm | MSLC | TBD | |
| Wed Aug 13 | 7 pm | MSLC | Stalking Infectious Diseases in Alaska's Wildlife | Karsten Hueffer Cristina Hansen |
| Thu Aug 14 | 3 pm | DVC | Artist-in-Residence outreach activity: Landscape painting demonstration | Linda Infante Lyons |
| Mon Aug 18 | 7 pm | MSLC | TBD | |
| Wed Aug 20 | 7 pm | MSLC | TBD | |
| Mon Aug 25 | 7 pm | MSLC | Sled Dogs in Denali's Wilderness | Jennifer Raffaeli |
| Thu Aug 28 | 3 pm | DVC | Artist-in-Residence outreach activity: Screen printing, ages 12 and up, class limit 15 | Charlotte Bird |
| Fri Aug 29 | 7 pm | MSLC | Call of the Wild: The Wilderness Act Turns 50 | Frank Keim |

MSLC = Murie Science and Learning Center DVC = Denali Visitor Center See maps pages 9 and 16

For the latest updates on park events, visit an online calendar @ <http://go.usa.gov/KjAQ>



"Migration of the Long-tailed Jaeger" by Stephen Hatcher, Artist-in-Residence 2013, is the newest piece donated to the program's permanent collection. It will display through the summer at the Denali Visitor Center. Since 2002, more than 45 accomplished artists and writers have contributed. Learn more at <http://go.usa.gov/bGn>



Tom Sexton June 19, 7 pm



Lorraine Bubar July 3, 3 pm



George-Ann Bowers July 17, 3 pm



Angela Morales July 31, 3 pm



Linda Infante Lyons August 14, 3 pm



Charlotte Bird August 28, 3 pm

Ranger Programs Help You Connect With Special Places

Join a park ranger for a free interpretive walk or talk. Topics typically can include wilderness stewardship, climate change, local cultural resources, mountaineering, the inner workings of boreal forest and alpine tundra, wildlife, and recent paleontological discoveries.

Guided Hikes

Several guided hikes depart daily from the Denali Visitor Center and the Eielson Visitor Center.

► **10 am, HORSESHOE LAKE HIKE** — Join a ranger for a naturalist walk that lasts around two hours, and covers about three miles round trip. But for one steep section of trail, this walk is considered easy. Meet at the Denali Visitor Center just before 10 am to participate.

► **1 pm, M^CKINLEY STATION HIKE** — Join a ranger for a naturalist walk that lasts around two hours and covers about 1.5 miles to conclude at the Riley Creek Campground. Meet at the Denali Visitor Center just before 1 pm to participate.

► **1 pm, EIELSON STROLL** — Join a ranger for a short naturalist walk of about 45 minutes around the Eielson Visitor Center. No registration is required, but select a shuttle bus departing 8:30 am or earlier from the entrance area. The visitor center is located at Mile 66, and is accessible by any Eielson, Wonder Lake, or Kantishna shuttle bus.



NPS PHOTO / ALEX VAN DER STUYF

Theater Programs

9 am and 2 pm — Illustrated ranger programs are offered twice daily in the Karstens Theater at the Denali Visitor Center. Check topics on program fliers available on bulletin boards and at the information desk.

Evening Campground Programs

Check local campground bulletin boards for topics and schedules. Programs last 45 minutes.

► **7:30 pm, RILEY CREEK CAMPGROUND**
Mile 0.2, parking available near campground

► **7:30 pm, SAVAGE RIVER CAMPGROUND**
Mile 12.8, accessible by courtesy bus or private vehicle

► **7:30 pm, TEKLANIKA RIVER CAMPGROUND**
Mile 29.1, accessible only to campers at the campground

► **7:30 pm, WONDER LAKE CAMPGROUND**
Mile 84.4, accessible only to campers at the campground

Learn more about park ranger programs at <http://go.usa.gov/dPo>



As a courtesy to others, please silence your cellphone during ranger programs. The signal also can interfere with sound amplification and accessibility features in some park facilities.



NPS PHOTO / SEAN PROCTOR

Some dogs are especially excited by children. Please be sure an adult is always nearby.

Program at Park Kennels is One-of-a-Kind

The historic Park Kennels are open to visitors year round, 8 am to 5 pm daily, near Park Headquarters at Mile 3.4 of the Park Road. Free courtesy shuttles are provided throughout the visitor season. (See page 16.) Public parking in the area is limited. If you drive yourself, do not expect to find a parking spot.

- Be sure to check in with staff and read all safety information as you arrive.
- For the safety of your pets, please leave them at another safe location while you visit the sled dogs. This includes service animals.
- Keep children at your side at all times.
- If any dog acts excited (jumping, barking, pacing) or nervous, please visit a different dog.
- Help train the park dogs to have good manners. They should not jump on you, chew on fingers, or eat any human food.



NPS PHOTO / KENT MILLER

Free demonstrations depict how rangers and dogs work together to practice a traditional Alaskan mode of travel. These truly unique, 30-minute programs include an opportunity to tour the kennels and visit Alaskan huskies.

Demonstrations are offered three times daily during peak season, at 10 am, 2 pm, and 4 pm. In May and September, offerings are more limited.

No registration necessary. Arrive at Denali Visitor Center bus stop 40 minutes prior to start time to board the “Dog Demonstration” courtesy bus. There are no late departures.

Programs are given rain or shine, so be prepared with an umbrella or rain coat. Some seating is available, and there is plenty of standing room.

Learn more about sled dogs and the historic park kennels at <http://go.usa.gov/B6D>



NPS PHOTO / NATHAN KOSTEGIAN

Discovery Hikes

This off-trail, all-day hike with a park ranger to a different site every day is a great way to explore Denali. Offered June 8 to mid-September, hikes can vary in difficulty. Participants must be prepared for uneven terrain, small stream crossings, dense vegetation, unpredictable weather, and close encounters with wildlife. While the hike itself is free, participants are required to sign up in advance at the Denali Visitor Center and to purchase a \$34.50 Discovery Hike bus ticket at the Wilderness Access Center. Group size is limited to 11 hikers.

Learn more about taking part in a Discovery Hike at <http://go.usa.gov/j4qR>

Partners Make Key Missions Possible



NPS PHOTO / CHARLOTTE BODAK



As a nonprofit education partner, **Alaska Geographic** connects people to Alaska’s magnificent wildlands through experiential education, award-winning books and maps, and by directly supporting the state’s parks, forests, and refuges. Over the past 50 years, Alaska Geographic has provided more than \$20 million to fund educational and interpretive programs throughout Alaska’s public lands. It also supports education programs, scientific research, and science-informed management decisions through the Murie Science and Learning Center, www.murieslc.org

Alaska Geographic operates four bookstores in the park, including the main Denali Visitor Center campus, the Murie Science and Learning Center, the Toklat Rest Area, and the Talkeetna Ranger Station. A portion of every sale helps fund the park’s educational and interpretive programs.

Alaska Geographic Association
P.O. Box 230
Denali Park, AK 99755
907 683-1272
www.alaskageographic.org

The **University of Alaska** partners with Denali in research and educational activities. Learn more at www.uaf.edu

The **National Park Foundation** provides support to parks throughout the United States, including Alaska. Learn more at www.nationalparks.org



Denali Education Center
P.O. Box 212
Denali Park, AK 99755
www.denali.org



NPS PHOTO / NAAMAN HORN

The **Denali Music Festival**, affiliated with the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, comes about each year through the hard work of a local partnership group, the Denali Arts and Humanities Alliance, which includes Denali National Park and Preserve, Denali Education Center, Denali Borough School District, Kids in Motion, and Alaska Geographic.

This year’s festival performance of the **Fairbanks Symphony** at the Denali Visitor Center is set for 7 pm Saturday, July 19.
More @ <http://go.usa.gov/bzQA>



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www.youtube.com/user/DenaliNPS



NPS PHOTO / JAY ELHARD

Translations

BASIC VISITOR INFORMATION

Chinese simplified
中文 (简体)



<http://go.usa.gov/bAT>

Chinese traditional
中文 (繁体)



<http://go.usa.gov/bAb>

Deutsch



<http://go.usa.gov/bAD>

Français



<http://go.usa.gov/bAj>

Japanese
日本の



<http://go.usa.gov/bA4>

Korean
한국인



<http://go.usa.gov/bAg>

Russian
Россию



<http://go.usa.gov/bAW>

Ride Free and Green

There are three courtesy bus services available in the park’s entrance area. All are wheelchair accessible. All operate daily and are free. Use them to travel between entrance area facilities, and in conjunction with your plans to hike entrance area trails.

Infographic not drawn to scale.

Please see pages 8-9 for a map of the entrance area with walking distances and descriptions of trails.

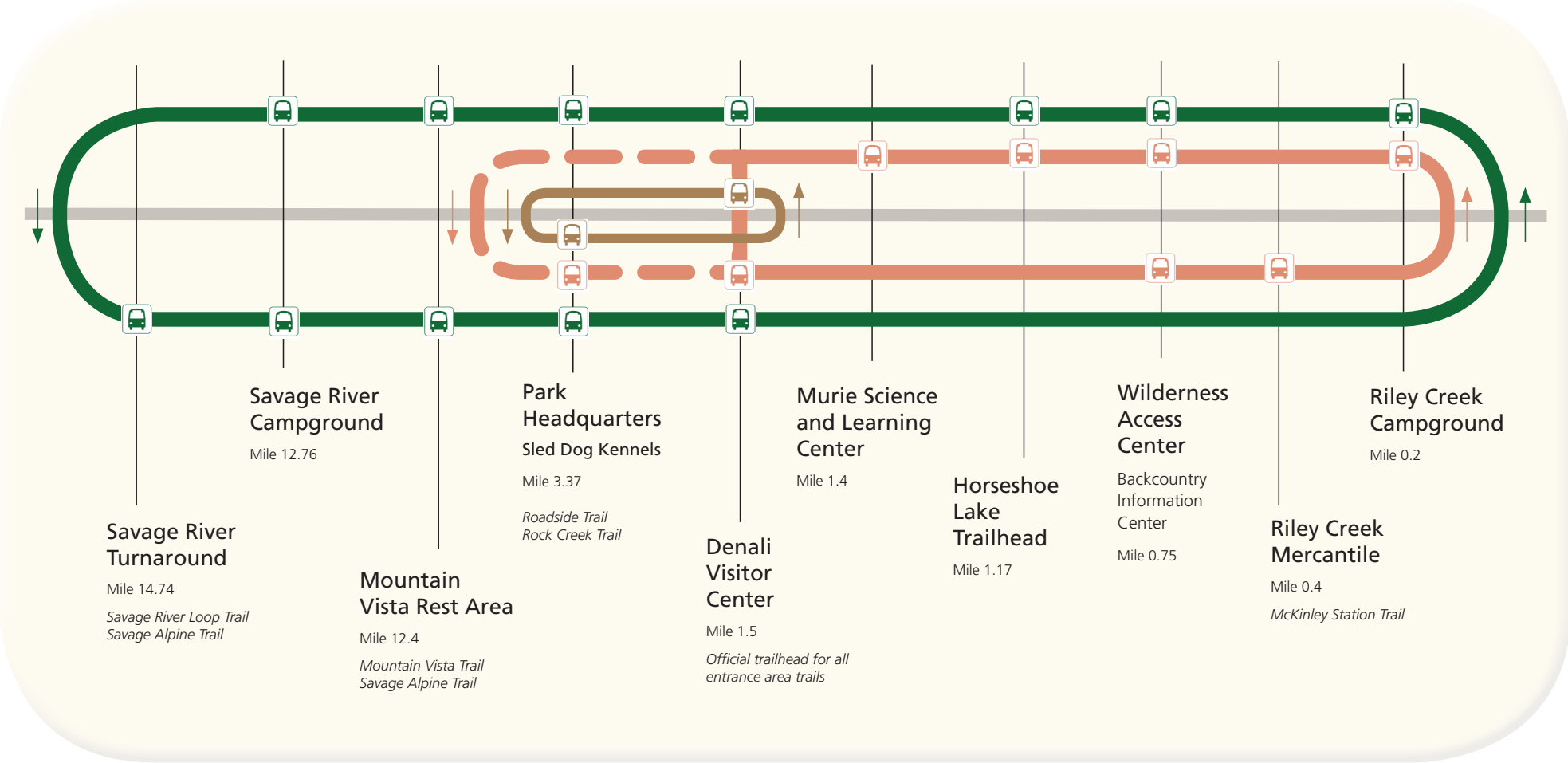
The **Savage River Shuttle** travels a two-hour loop between the park entrance area, the Mountain Vista Trailhead, and the Savage River at Mile 14.74. Download a PDF of Savage River Shuttle schedules at <http://go.usa.gov/KNz4>.

The order of stops for each loop is the Riley Creek Campground, Wilderness Access Center (WAC), Horseshoe Lake Trailhead, Denali Visitor Center (DVC), Park Headquarters, Mountain Vista Rest Area, Savage River Campground, Savage River Turnaround, Savage River Campground, Mountain Vista Trailhead, Park Headquarters, Denali Visitor Center.

The **Riley Creek Loop** travels the entrance area continuously, linking all major visitor facilities roughly every 30 minutes. Download a PDF of Riley Creek Loop schedules at <http://go.usa.gov/KNz4>.

The order of stops is the Riley Creek Campground, Wilderness Access Center (WAC), Horseshoe Lake Trailhead, Murie Science and Learning Center (MSLC), Denali Visitor Center (DVC), Wilderness Access Center (WAC), Riley Creek Mercantile. On alternating loops, between stops at the MSLC and DVC, a stop is added at Park Headquarters.

The **Sled Dog Demonstration Shuttle** travels to the Park Kennels, which are located more than two miles from the visitor center campus. Free round trip transportation departs from the Denali Visitor Center bus depot 40 minutes before each demonstration. During peak season, this means 9:20 am, 1:20 pm, and 3:20 pm daily. Offerings are more limited in May and September, however. Check at the visitor center or the bus depot for posted departure times. Follow painted white paw prints on pathways a short distance from the visitor center to reach the bus stop. Learn more on page 14, or <http://go.usa.gov/B6D>



From left, Wilderness Access Center, Denali Visitor Center, Eielson Visitor Center, Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station

NPS PHOTOS / KENT MILLER

Information Centers

Wilderness Access Center
Mile 0.75 Park Road
Open 5 am to 7 pm daily for restrooms, coffee, bus depot. Reservation desk opens 7 am. Information 7 am to 7 pm. Hours may vary during shoulder seasons. Offers bus tickets and campground information, coffee cart, retail sales. Film: *Across Time and Tundra*. 907 683-9274

<http://go.usa.gov/bF7>

All shuttle buses depart from the WAC.

Backcountry Information Center
Mile 0.75 Park Road, adjacent to the Wilderness Access Center. Open 9 am to 6 pm daily. Offers backcountry information and permits, bear-resistant food containers, maps. 907 683-9590

Visitor Center Campus
Mile 1.4 Park Road
Offers bus stop, railroad depot, baggage check, Morino Grill, Alaska Geographic Bookstore. Lost and Found: 907 683-9275

Murie Science and Learning Center
Mile 1.4 Park Road
Open 9:30 am to 5 pm daily. Offers general information, exhibits, presentations, half-day classes, multi-day seminars, teacher trainings, and youth camps. For schedules visit www.murieslc.org 907 683-6432

Denali Visitor Center
Mile 1.5 Park Road
Open 8 am to 6 pm daily. Offers general information, exhibits, interpretive programs, ranger-guided walks, Artist-in-Residence installation. Film: *Heartbeats of Denali* <http://go.usa.gov/bFG>

Toklat Rest Stop
Mile 53 Park Road
Open 9 am to 7 pm daily. Offers general information, exhibits, Alaska Geographic Bookstore.

Eielson Visitor Center
Mile 66 Park Road
Open 9 am to 7 pm daily. Offers general information, exhibits, interpretive programs, ranger-guided walks, Artist-in-Residence installation. Film: *Climbing Mount McKinley* <http://go.usa.gov/DI7>

Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station
B Street in Talkeetna
Open 8 am to 5:30 pm daily. Offers moutaineering information for the Alaska Range, general information, exhibits, Alaska Geographic Bookstore. 907 733-2231